

Strawberry Creek Monthly Meeting
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business
January 12, 2020 Minutes

The meeting opened at 12:05 pm with silent worship. Elizabeth Moses Strain clerked the meeting. 33 Friends were present. Stephen McNeil read the responses of Care of the Meeting Committee to the advices and queries on Stewardship and Vocation. The Clerk invited Friends to provide more responses out of the silence.

The Clerk noted changes in the agenda, including the addition of the membership transfer for Paul Jolly to Old Business, the nomination of Lee Douglas to Nominating Committee as New Business, and a report from Communications Committee by Amy Dewey. Avotcja Jiltonilro asked to make three announcements, being unable to stay until the announcement period at the end of the meeting. She is collecting more donations for Puerto Rico relief after the recent earthquakes. The Asian Art Museum is holding an exhibit on shipwrecks that she described as a life changing experience. The de Young Museum is holding an exhibit titled Soul of a Nation: Art in the of Black Power 1963-1983.

The Recording Clerk read the minutes for the December 8, 2019 meeting for business. The minutes were approved with the following revision to a previous amendment to the PPR report. "A major focus of the Ghana trip was to learn about the slave trade and see the dungeons where enslaved African people were being held before experiencing the horror of the Maafa, or Middle Passage."

Correspondence and Clerk's Business

The Clerk received an email from Peter Kegode, a Friend from Nairobi Monthly Meeting in Kenya, who is founder and CEO of Nishati Koffee LLC. Nishati Koffee is a social justice start-up company registered in the US and sourcing coffee directly from farmers in Kenya. His company has partnered with Ocean Sole Africa, a social justice business which is turning ocean waste into recycled art products to launch a climate justice tour of US major cities in 2020. Peter will be visiting Palo Alto from January 17 to 26 and wishes to make connections with Friends during his visit. The Clerk can forward his email to anyone who is interested.

The Clerk received a letter from Quaker Bolivia Link thanking the Meeting for its \$150 donation. The listening meeting for the annual State of the Meeting report is scheduled for February 16 at 11:50 am. The writing committee consists of Stephen McNeil, Janet Piggins, and Kat Stenstedt. Stephen serves as a member of Care of the Meeting Committee and Janet serves as a member of Worship and Ministry. Neither Stephen nor Janet will be able to attend the listening meeting. Some Friends expressed concern and asked that the listening meeting be rescheduled. The Clerk replied that February 16 is the only available Sunday for that month. The Alternate Clerk noted that it is not necessary for all of the members of the writing committee to attend the listening meeting, which is only one source for gathering information for the report. Shelley Tanenbaum said that she has volunteered to take notes on behalf of Stephen. Several Friends asked that the listening meeting be recorded. The Clerk says she will let the committee decide the details on how to conduct the listening meeting.

The Clerk received a request from Tom Yamaguchi to transfer his membership to Berkeley Meeting. The Meeting expressed great appreciation for his years of dedicated service.

Old Business

Care of the Meeting Committee, membership transfer for Paul Jolly (Rhea Farley)

Rhea Farley read the report from Care of the Meeting Committee, recommending Paul's membership transfer request. The request will season for one month. A Friend asked that the report be published in the newsletter. A Friend said she thought the meeting had established a practice of printing all membership reports in the newsletter, but that practice has not been consistently followed. The Clerk asked Care of the Meeting Committee to submit the report to the newsletter if that is acceptable to Paul.

Nominating Committee Slate, Naming Committee (Philippa Barron)

The nominations of Paul Jolly to serve on Nominating Committee and James Hosley and Ralph Murphy to serve as co-clerks of Nominating Committee have seasoned for one month. Philippa reported no concerns have been raised. The Meeting approved the nominations.

New Business

Nomination of Lee Douglas to Nominating Committee, Naming Committee (Philippa Barron)

Naming Committee is bringing the name of Lee Douglas to serve on Nominating Committee. The nomination will season for one month. A Friend asked if Lee would be able to attend meetings during seasoning process, as Paul Jolly had agreed to do while his name was seasoning last month. Some Friends expressed concern that allowing Friends to serve on a committee while their names are being seasoned might interfere with the seasoning process. Co-clerk James Hosley replied that the committee needs to do its work within a tight timeframe and that it would have been easier to have a full committee in December. Some friends suggested that any seasoning nominees be considered observers on the committee or volunteers while their names are being seasoned. The Meeting found that suggestion acceptable. Concerns on the nominations may be brought to Naming Committee.

Nominations for PYM Representative and Observer, Nominating Committee (James Hosley)

Nominating Committee is bringing the names of Nancy Wilkinson to serve as PYM Representative and Philippa Barron to serve as PYM Observer. Their names will season for one month. Friends with concerns may contact Nominating Committee.

Reports

Events Committee (Francie Nurkse)

The 12th month Gathering was well attended, and many people volunteered on setup and cleanup.

The Spring Retreat will be held at Ben Lomond Quaker Center during the weekend of May 1 to May 3. Carolyn Edwards is the retreat registrar. Anyone interested in joining a working group to develop the retreat program can contact Francie.

There is currently no job description for the new committee. Shelley Tanenbaum, who is the Care of the Meeting Committee buddy for Events Committee said she would work with Francie to write a job description.

Francie said she would like to create a “how to” manual on organizing events. She said that practice has worked well for Santa Cruz Meeting.

Communications (Amy Dewey)

Web Coordinator Amy Dewey responded to questions Friends have regarding the transition from the meeting’s use of Yahoo Groups to the new IO Group. The Yahoo Group still exists, and she has been unable to remove the group from Yahoo. Friends are still posting to the Yahoo Group and are encouraged to switch to the new IO group. She has migrated the email addresses of all members from the Yahoo Group to the IO Group.

Yahoo no longer maintains files or a message archive on its site. Peter Lin has downloaded and is keeping the archived files from the Yahoo group.

Friends with questions or problems accessing the group may contact Amy Dewey.

Announcements

Next Meeting for Business, February 9, 2020 at 11:50 a.m. Berkeley Technology Academy
College Park Quarterly Meeting winter session, Saturday, January 18, 2020, Palo Alto Meeting
Potluck with George Lakey, Monday, February 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm, Berkeley Meeting
Laura Magnani announced that the Power, Privilege, and Race Subcommittee plans to sponsor a group field trip to the exhibit that Avotcja announced at the de Young Museum on February 22. They are checking to find if a group rate is available and plan to have scholarships for those who need financial assistance.

The meeting closed with silent worship at 1:54 pm.

Submitted by: Elizabeth Moses Strain, Clerk, Charlie Blanchard, Alternate Clerk, and Tom Yamaguchi, Recording Clerk